

Winners of the Ontario Championship Chorus competition will entertain at Ebenezer United Church this weekend. Some local voices are part of the Royal City Ambassadors barbershop chorus. Proceeds will go toward the church's expansion fund.

### Royal City Ambassadors Barbershop Chorus

## Barbershop chorus to perform at Ebenezer Church

The harmonious male voices of the Royal City Ambassadors Barbershop Chorus will fill the sanctuary at Ebenezer United Church the evening of Sunday, Nov. 15.

This is another in a series of classical and popular music concerts in the past two years at the Nassagaweya church.

The 75-year-old sanctuary offers excellent acoustics and the traditional warmth of oak and stained glass, say organizers.

The barbershop chorus will present a varied program of barbershop music, ranging from traditional to modern.

The group was established in 1968 and its membership includes singers from a wide range of occupations who share a love of barbershop music.

The Guelph chapter, part of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, includes

members from Nassagaweya, as well as Acton, Rockwood and surrounding area.

"We are delighted to present this local group, well known for its fine harmony and dedication to community," stated Dr. Stanley Saunders who arranged the local performance.

Tickets will be available at the door at a cost of \$7.50 for adults and \$5 for students and children.

A \$20 family pass is also available. Advanced tickets are encouraged and are available at the Trading Post in Brookville or by calling Dr. Saunders (519) 856-4849 or Greg Kitching, 854-2698.

Ebenezer church is on Guelph Line between 20 and 25 sideroads. Elevator and handicap access is now complete. Concert proceeds will benefit the new addition and access fund.

## NEC's power coming under attack by region, citizens

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The NELC is attacking the NEC as a meddling bureaucracy that no longer serves much purpose, and soliciting the backing of various regional councils prior to making a case formally to the Province.

Since its inception in May of 1991, the NELC has grown from two dozen to more than 600 members, Mr. Schnarr told councillors.

He indicated it continues to gather momentum fuelled by frustration with NEC policies and decisions.

While the coalition "strongly supports preservation of the Niagara Escarpment," transferring major NEC responsibilities to regional government would result in "large savings for taxpayers."

The NEC has become "a focal point for anger and animosity" and is mired in "wide-ranging, continuous conflict with residents" who live on or near the escarpment face, Mr. Schnarr said.

He dismissed the NEC as a "self-perpetuating bureaucracy that has outlived its usefulness." The commission spends \$3 million a year directly and causes another \$7 million in public funds to be consumed by other government agencies interlocked with it, he added, labelling that "a huge waste."

Mr. Schnarr also characterized NEC hearings, in which landowners attempt to make a case for their proposals, as "confrontational" and "most difficult."

Mr. Robson took exception to that, saying that in his year as a delegate to the NEC, "I have not found anything confrontational. I have not found any political interference either, none whatsoever."

While allowing that "there are some difficulties" in NEC decision-making, Mr. Robson suggested that is always the case when interpretations must be made. "A lot of things aren't straightforward. Nothing's perfect."

"I don't think it would be in the best inter-

ests of the people of Ontario," to dismantle the NEC, councillor Robson warned.

Mr. Oliver said the focus should not be on potentially eradicating the NEC, but instead on dispensing with "unnecessary red tape." As far as tendencies toward confrontational behaviour within the NEC, Mr. Oliver added that "many people" have complained to regional council about just that.

In putting forward his motion, Mr. Oliver stressed that "we've had sufficient information over a number of years," to support the NELC bid. "I would not want to see us procrastinate any longer."

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz said that two decades ago "I fought very hard" to create an organization that would protect the escarpment, but the NEC "has outlived its usefulness. I think we can operate it more efficiently."

In terms of NEC intrusions, "I've seen what people had to endure," Mr. Krantz added. "They even tell you what colour of shingles

you can put on your roof."

Burlington councillor Joyce Savoline said she was "reluctantly" siding with Mr. Oliver. "I realize there are frustrations. That's why I'm supporting this." However, she is worried that escarpment decision-making will fragment into political pockets if the various regional governments take over chunks of the rock face, a prospect she deemed "planning in two mile strips."

Councillor Savoline also warned that greed is propelling part of the dissatisfaction with the NEC, a criticism aimed at developers she sees as attempting to circumvent environmental rules. "A lot of the arguments being made are made for the almighty buck."

Mr. Schnarr said "at least 90 per cent" of NELC members "have no intentions" of developing their properties, but are landowners who have experienced "considerable frustration in dealing with the NEC" over matters such as building a church parking lot or replacing a burned-out structure.

## Halton police pleased they've been given increased firepower

By PAUL MITCHISON  
Special to The Champion

Police in Halton are pleased they may soon be allowed to carry semi-automatic guns loaded with hollow-point bullets, dramatically hiking the firepower of officers on patrol.

Laurie Vector, administrator of the Halton Regional Police Association, said police feel they need more firepower to protect themselves from increasingly well-armed criminals.

"The weapons our members are being forced to use are like typewriters in a computer age," she said.

Halton police are currently wearing blue ribbons as a symbol of concerns they share with fellow Metropolitan Toronto officers. One of the issues is a need for better weapons.

A press release from the Halton Regional Police Association last month blasted the NDP government for its "refusal to recognize the need

for improved firearms and ammunition to ensure the police in Ontario can adequately protect both citizens and themselves."

Now Solicitor General Alan Pilkey said increased police firepower is "under active consideration" in his ministry. He made the statement after meeting with police chiefs and services boards earlier this week.

The NDP government previously rejected the measures because it wanted to discourage police from using lethal force. But the new weapons might be viewed by some as a concession to angry supporters of police, as Metro officers fight new regulations requiring them to write reports each time they draw their weapons in public.

The Ontario Provincial Police Association, which represents officers, passed a resolution in October calling for "semi-automatic sidearms to keep pace with the arsenals of the criminal element in Toronto."

If approved, the local taxpayer will be hit with some heavy costs. The current .38-calibre revolver used by Halton officers, which holds six bullets, cost about \$500 each.

Depending on which semi-automatic handgun is selected, it might cost up to \$800 apiece and officers would have to receive additional training on its use.

A member of the Halton Regional Police Services Board, Paul Lafleur, said he hasn't made up his mind yet on whether to support the call for improved new weaponry.

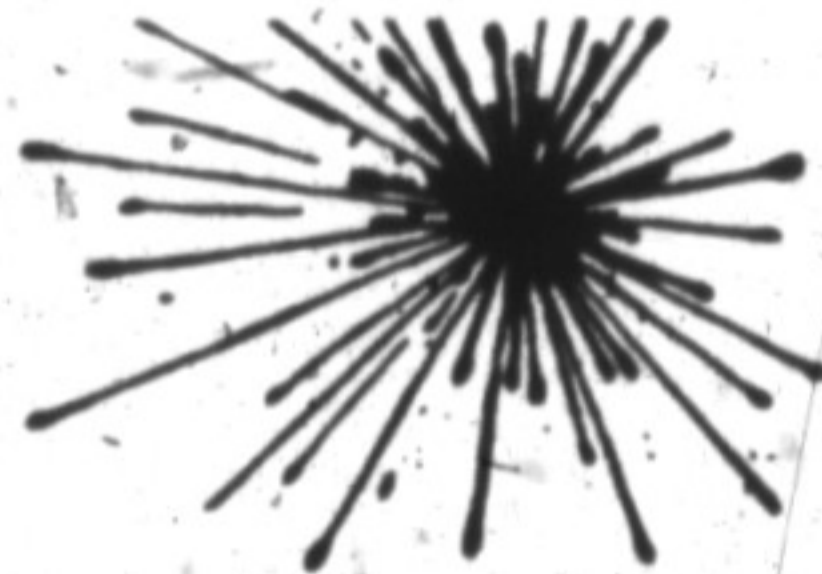
"How often does an officer empty his gun of all six bullets? It seems to me maybe we should use the money toward wages or buy new cruisers and hire extra officers," said Mr. Lafleur.

"I do know that a lot of the officers speak very highly of these new guns," he added. "I'd have to hear what the officers have to say and their reasons for it."



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